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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

SUBJECT Organization of the Soviet Press Service
in the Russian Zone

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SUPPLEMENT

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EVALUATION OF CONTENT

1. The SNE (Soviet Press Service, Sowjetisches Nachrichtenbüro) has its headquarters in Karlshorst, where it employs about 800 people. It has at its disposition a number of wireless transmitters and teletype machines, as well as airplanes.
2. There are several branch offices (Zweigstellen) in each state or province of the Russian Zone. Each branch office is headed by a Russian officer and has an MVD officer, an officer as expert on economic affairs, and a woman officer as expert on women's affairs. In Weimar the Russian head of the branch office is Major Ponomarev; the economics officer is Fetkov.
3. The German personnel in a branch office consists of a director (Hauptgeschäftsführer) and an engineer. In Weimar the German director is Achilles, a twenty-four year old former Wehrmacht officer.
4. Each branch office has a number of subordinate offices (Unterstellen) working on the next lower administrative level. Subordinate offices of the Weimar office are in Sondershausen (D11), Nordhausen (D12) and Mühlhausen (H89).
5. Each subordinate office has the following personnel: two German staff correspondents, with a monthly salary of RM 1500, ration card No. 2, extra supplies of food and cigarettes, and a sedan apiece; two German women secretaries, with a monthly salary of RM 450; and a number of German free-lance correspondents. Each subordinate office has two teletype machines.
6. The German correspondents are all provided with an extensive set of passes, identity and membership cards. They have membership cards in the SED, the CDU, and the LDP in order to be able to attend closed meetings of these parties. They also possess certificates such as "youth leader of the SED".

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7. Work in the offices is divided into three categories: 1) economic information, 2) political information, and 3) SNB dispatches. News from the subordinate and branch offices is sent to Karlshorst by teletype.

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